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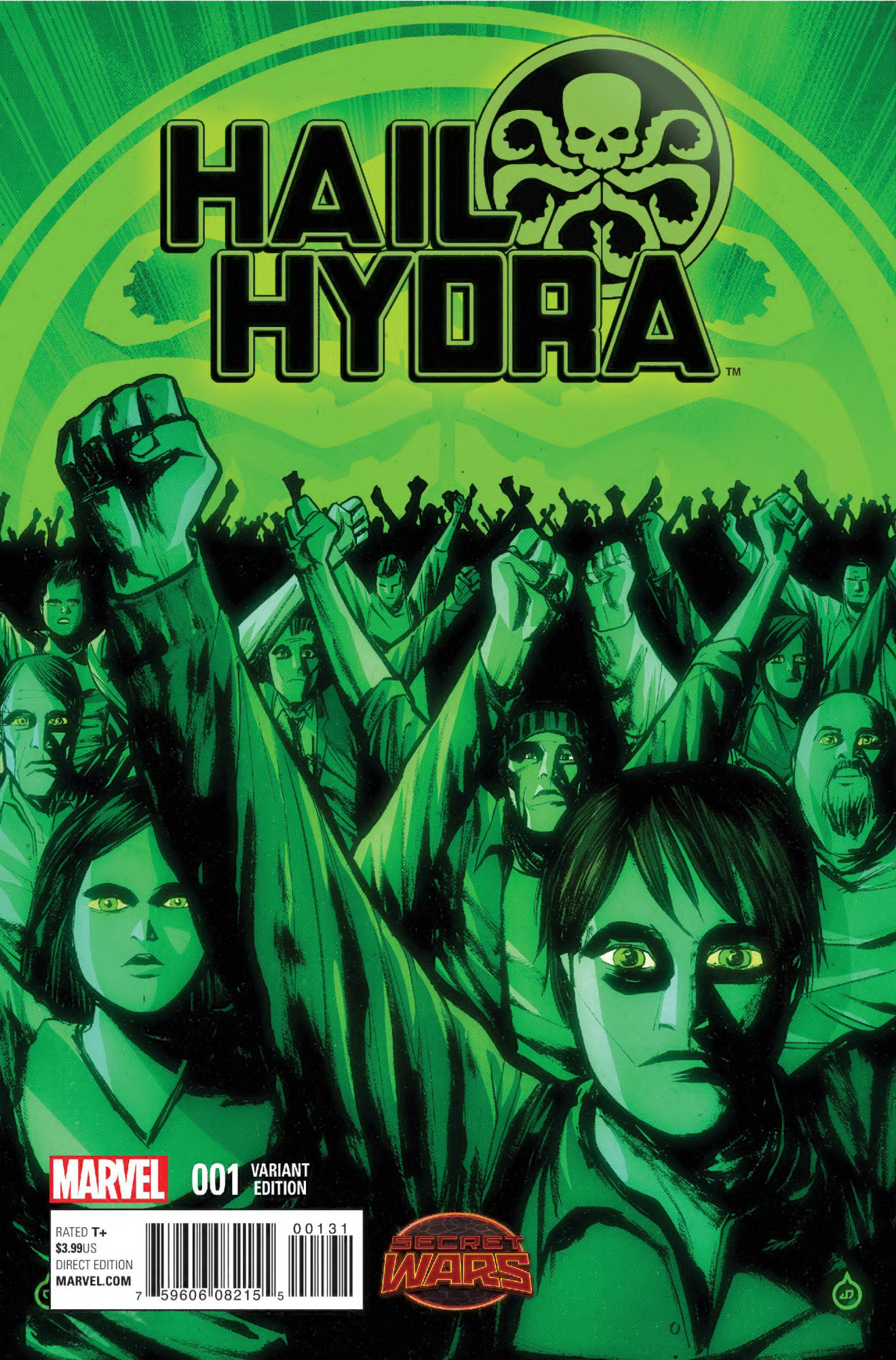
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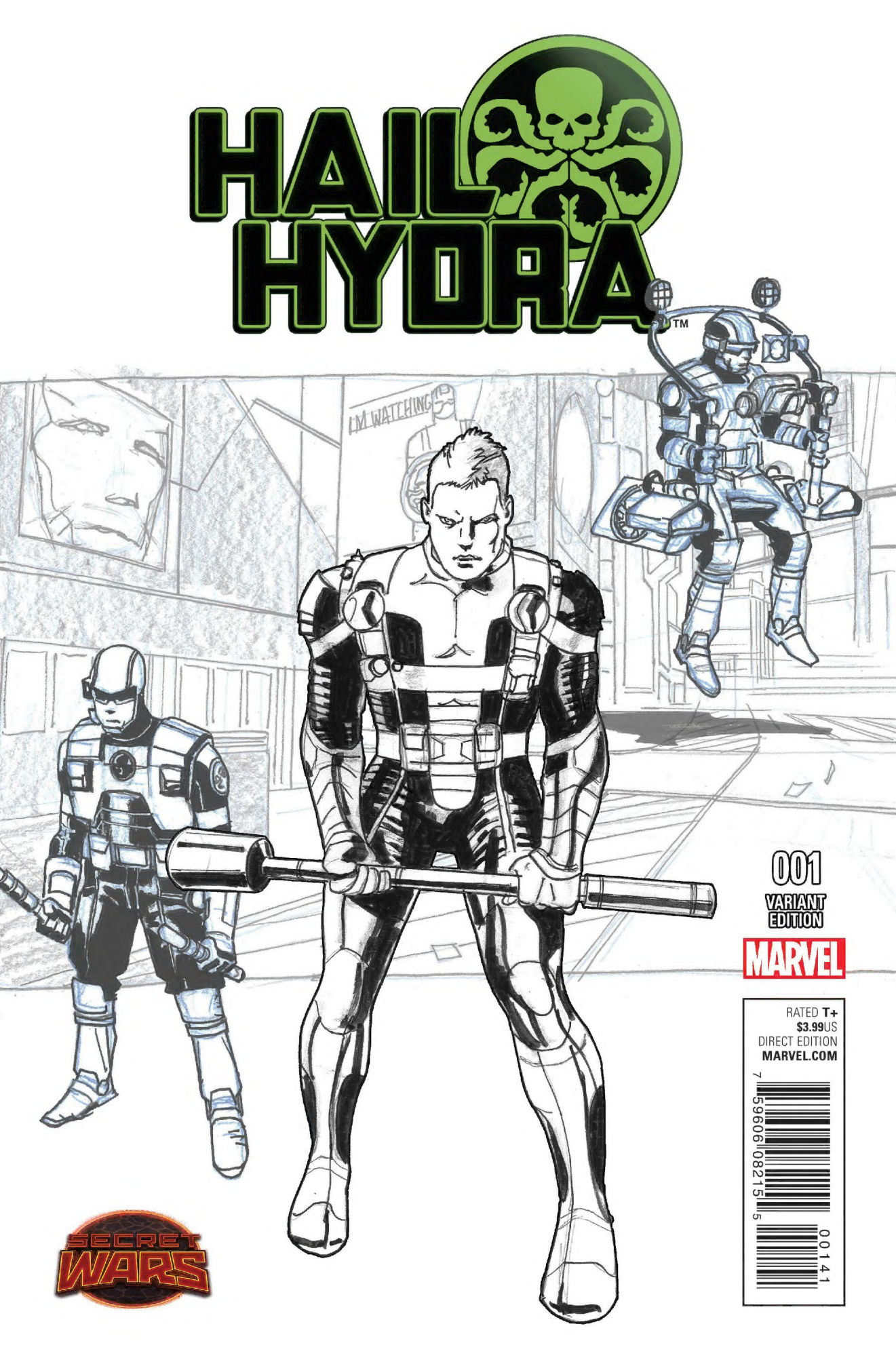
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001 VARIANT EDITION

SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS…IS BATTLEWORLD:

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

IAN ROGERS IS NOMAD: BIOLOGICAL SON OF ARNIM ZOLA, ADOPTED SON OF STEVE ROGERS, AND PARTNER TO SAM WILSON, THE NEW CAPTAIN AMERICA.

NOMAD WAS PRESUMED DEAD AFTER BARON ZEMO'S BASE EXPLODED WITH NOMAD AND ZEMO INSIDE. BUT NOMAD ESCAPED INTO THE INFINITE ELEVATOR…

HAIL HYDRA

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A DAY COMES WHEN WE MUST CHOOSE WHO WE BECOME.
WE CAN TRY TO HIDE FROM IT.
BUT THE CHOICE IS STALKING US--UNAVOIDABLE.
I WAS 12 YEARS OLD WHEN I FACED MINE.
...NO MATTER WHAT LIES HE'S PLANTED IN YOUR HEAD...
...I LOVE YOU, IAN.
QUIT CALLING ME IAN!
MY NAME IS LEOPOLD!
A CHOICE BETWEEN MY BIOLOGICAL FATHER, ARNIM ZOLA--
--AND STEVE ROGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE MAN WHO RAISED ME.
LEOPOLD... THAT'S HIS NAME FOR YOU...
YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE WHO YOU WANT TO BE, SON.
I... MY NAME IS...
MY NAME...MY NAME IS IAN.
BUT THE QUESTION STILL HAUNTS ME.
AM I CAPABLE OF ZOLA'S EVIL?
IF STEVE HADN'T SHOWN ME A BETTER WAY--

--WHO WOULD I HAVE BECOME?

A FUN QUANDARY THIS WORLD INSISTS I REVISIT.

I'M NOMAD.

TO ESCAPE THE DETONATION OF ZEMO'S BASE, I DUCKED INTO HYDRA'S INTERDIMENSIONAL INFINITE ELEVATOR.

WOUND UP HERE-- WHEREVER HERE IS.

ZOLA'S FACE LORDS OVER ME FROM EVERY ANGLE.

CRAZY EYES, WIDE WITH MALICIOUS CONSPIRACY.

IS THIS MY FATHER STEVE'S HOME?

THIS CAN'T BE.

FALLEN TO HIS GREATEST NIGHTMARE?

DID SAM FAIL TO STOP ZEMO?

WAS THERE SOME PLOT WE MISSED?

DID ZOLA STRIKE IN MY ABSENCE?

ZOLA... WORKING WITH HYDRA.

SSHHHP

HEY!

OR SOMETHING WORSE?

WAIT!

WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS?

WHERE ARE WE?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE SPRAY PAINT.

JUST NEED TO KNOW--

SCREW YOU, GANKER!

LET GO!

EASY--I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

HOW DID HYDRA TAKE OVER NEW YORK?

THE HELL'RE YOU ON ABOUT, NUTS?

HYDRA DIDN'T TAKE OVER NEW YORK...

...HYDRA FOUNDED NEW YORK.

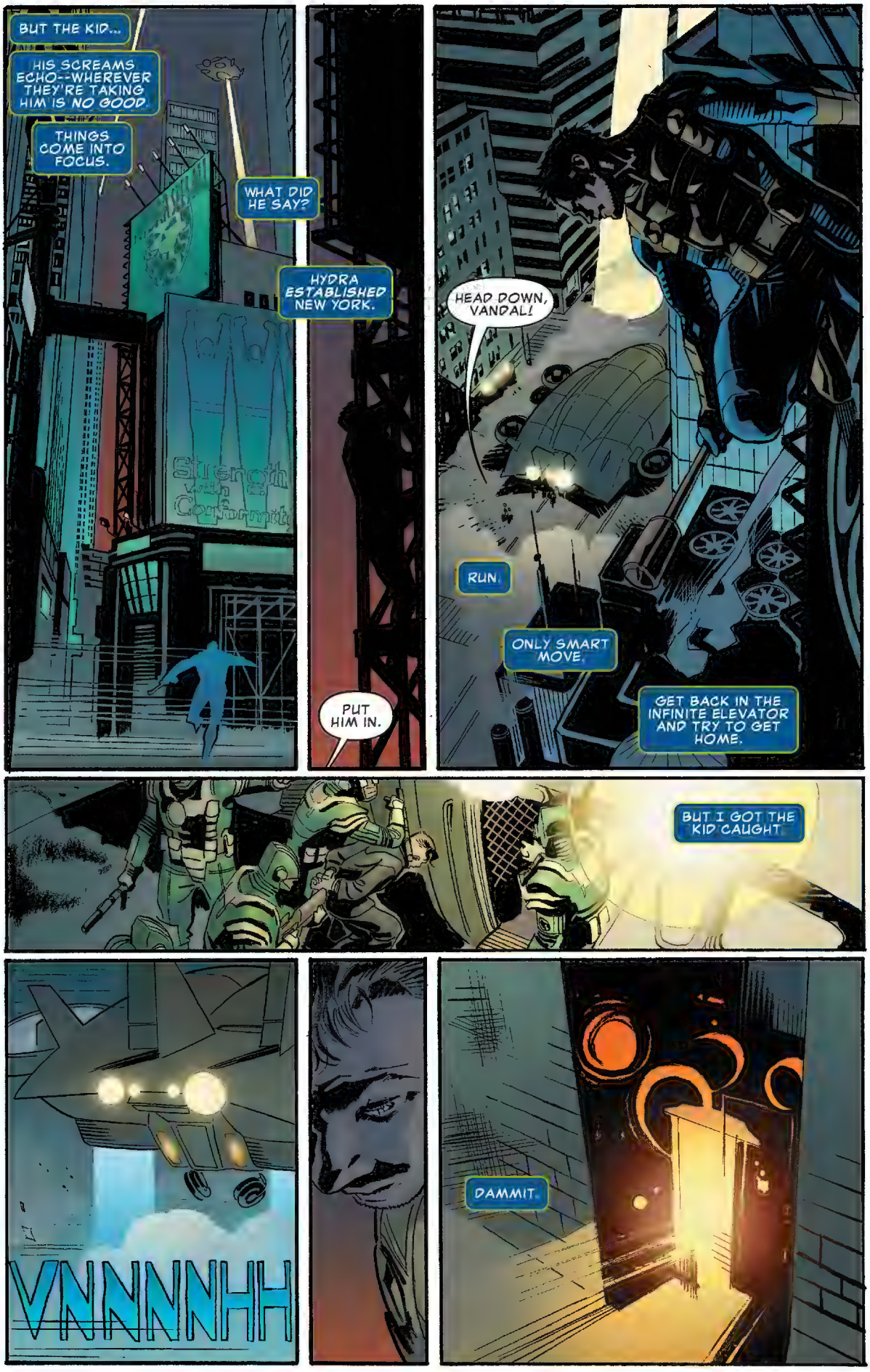
FREEZE!
NO SUDDEN MOVEMENTS OR WE'LL MAKE THINGS HURT!
KWOOM!
VIOLATING CURFEW AND DEFACING PUBLIC PROPERTY--
SENTENCING IS UNDER DECREE 95-4.
PREPARE TO BE RESOCIALIZED.
DROP YOUR WEAPONS-- GET ON THE GROUND!
NO!
NOT AGAIN!
I WON'T GO BACK!
LAST CHANCE.
ON THE GROUND OR I DROP YOU!
SSSHHHH

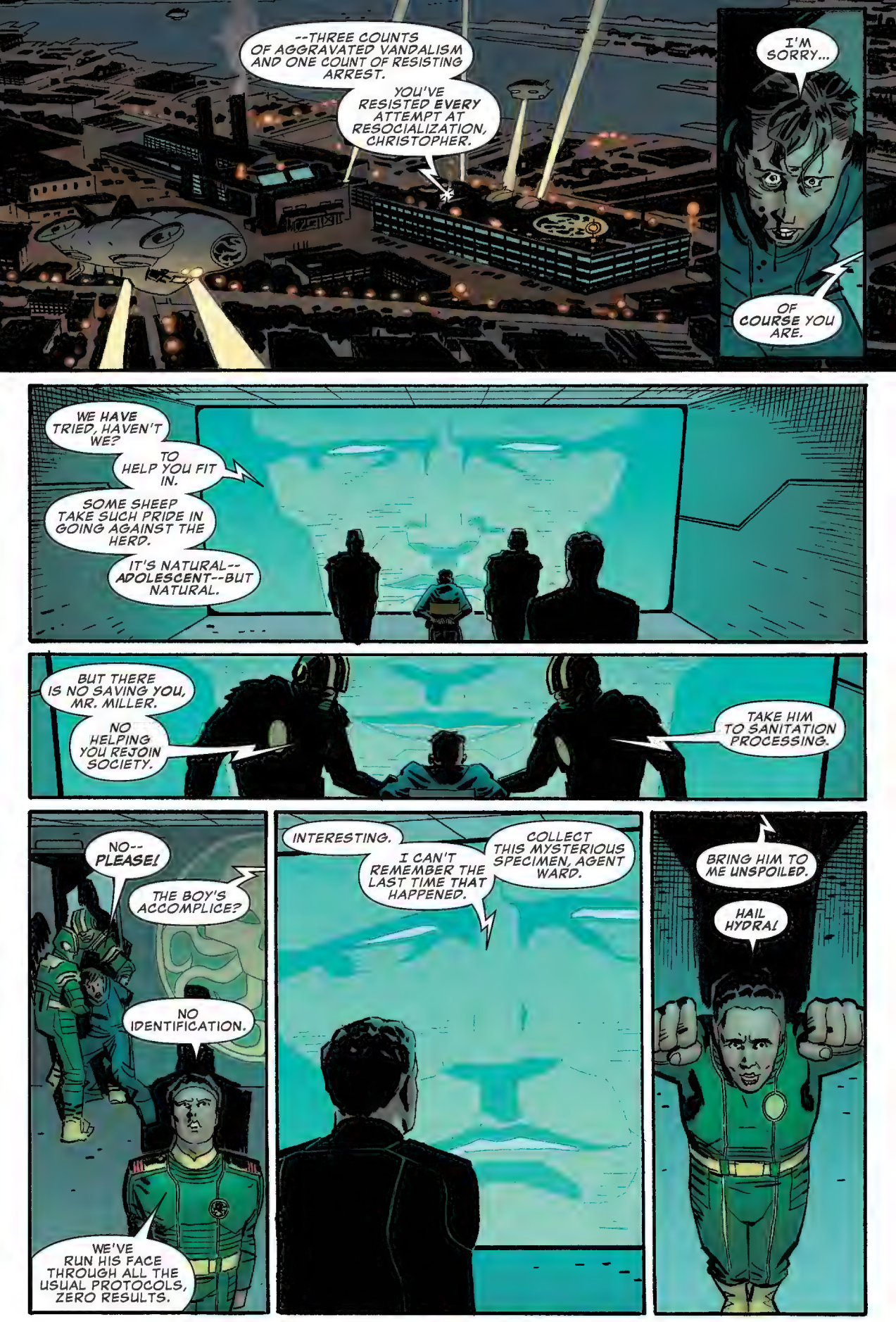
GNAAT
YOU OVERLOOKED ANOTHER WAY THIS COULD GO.
IDIOT.
KID WAS BEYOND TERRIFIED.
GUESS WHY?
KRAK
OOF--!
RRWN
YOUR SENTENCE HAS BEEN AMPLIFIED.
I WAS TOO EXCITED AT SEEING ANOTHER HUMAN.
KRAKOOM
MY FAULT HE'S IN THIS.
GET ON THE GROUND.
VRRNNNNNN
WARNING SHOTS?
MERCY?
THERE'S A CLEAN ROAD TO YOUR ACCLIMATION PROVIDED YOU DO NOT MAR THE STREETS FURTHER.
STRANGE FASCISM.
NO-- PLEASE!

ESCAPE IS NOT AN OPTION.
NOT WITH THAT AIRSHIP
POLICE
NOT WITH THE KID IN TROUBLE.
HE'S RESISTING!
ZAK
WHAT GAVE ME AWAY?
DAD'S VOICE CUTS THROUGH.
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARRY THE BIGGEST STICK TO WIN A FIGHT--
KLUDD
GRAAH--!
"--JUST GET CONTROL OF THE MAN WHO DOES."
NO!
GAZAAFT
ONE OF HIS FAVORITE LECTURES
BKOOMM
I HATE HOW OFTEN THEY'VE SAVED MY LIFE.

GAZZK
YERAGH--
BAD SHOCK.
WORLD SPINS BLIND--
--BODY GOES NUMB.
HOOF--!
BOKK
HEAVY CHARGE--
--BUT NOT ENOUGH TO KILL.
GAZAAAK
LUCKY FOR THIS GUY.

KRAK
SIRENS IN THE DISTANCE.
MORE HYDRA COMING.
PIECE IT TOGETHER: A SMALL ARMY TO TAKE DOWN A VANDAL.
PATROL IS STRICTLY MAINTENANCE.
HAIL HYDRA
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?
PEOPLE IN CHARGE AREN'T AFRAID OF HOLDING POWER.
BEHIND THE PROPAGANDA--
--CAMERAS CLICK AND WHIRL.
NOT GETTING THROUGH UNNOTICED.
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.


BUT THE KID...
HIS SCREAMS ECHO--WHEREVER THEY'RE TAKING HIM IS NO GOOD.
THINGS COME INTO FOCUS.
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HYDRA ESTABLISHED NEW YORK.
PUT HIM IN.
HEAD DOWN, VANDAL!
RUN.
ONLY SMART MOVE.
GET BACK IN THE INFINITE ELEVATOR AND TRY TO GET HOME.
BUT I GOT THE KID CAUGHT.
VNNNNHH
DAMMIT.


--THREE COUNTS OF AGGRAVATED VANDALISM AND ONE COUNT OF RESISTING ARREST.
YOU'VE RESISTED EVERY ATTEMPT AT RESOCIALIZATION, CHRISTOPHER.
I'M SORRY...
OF COURSE YOU ARE.
WE HAVE TRIED, HAVEN'T WE?
TO HELP YOU FIT IN.
SOME SHEEP TAKE SUCH PRIDE IN GOING AGAINST THE HERD.
IT'S NATURAL--ADOLESCENT--BUT NATURAL.
BUT THERE IS NO SAVING YOU, MR. MILLER.
NO HELPING YOU REJOIN SOCIETY.
TAKE HIM TO SANITATION PROCESSING.
NO--PLEASE!
THE BOY'S ACCOMPLICE?
NO IDENTIFICATION.
WE'VE RUN HIS FACE THROUGH ALL THE USUAL PROTOCOLS, ZERO RESULTS.
INTERESTING.
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME THAT HAPPENED.
COLLECT THIS MYSTERIOUS SPECIMEN, AGENT WARD.
BRING HIM TO ME UNSPOILED.
HAIL HYDRA!

I-I'M NOT LIKE THESE PEOPLE--
I'VE GOT A JOB!
I PAY THE TRIBUTE.
LISTEN TO ME--IT WAS JUST A LITTLE JOKE! A PAINT MUSTACHE--
I-I'LL ENLIST!
WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO--
PACK IT IN.
KRAKK
HEARD THEY ROUNDED UP THE LAST MUTANT THIS WEEK.
ABOUT TIME.
BLUE FUR. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
PLEASE!
LOOK AT THE ROT ON YOU.

OOZED OUT O' YER MOUTH HOLE.
DRINK IN THE FINALS, WHELP.
'FORE OL' MORTIMER SENDS YA BACK TO THE PRIMAL ENGINES WHENCE YE CAME.
GARBAGE GOES IN, GOOD MINERALS COME OUT.
CLEAN AND NEW.
PERHAPS YE RETURN A BETTER BOY?
A BETTER, MORE CLEVER COG, TO JOIN AN' SERVE.
TOO LATE THIS TIME 'ROUND, YOUNGSTER.
WASH AWAY THE FAILIN' MECHANISM OF YOU.
USE YER RAW GOODS, ONLY WAY LEFT FER SERVICE, YES?
FEAR YE NOT, LITTLE TURNIP--
--THEM FURNACES EAT AWAY YER BAD CHOICES.

THOK
IF WE'RE EATING, I TAKE MINE RARE.
WHA--?!
KNAP!
GRAH--!
TWP!
SUPER RARE, LIKE NOT COOKED AT ALL.
MAKES THE CHEF'S JOB EASY, I FIGURE.
POLICE
ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'RE GLAD TO SEE ME, RIGHT?
BET YOU FEEL BAD ABOUT ALL THOSE MEAN THINGS YOU SAID.
TH-THANK YOU.
AND HERE'S WHERE YOU SHOW ME HOW GRATEFUL YOU ARE.
GET EVERYONE ELSE LOOSE--

--WE'RE SHUTTING THIS SANITATION STATION DOWN.
HUMAN REMAINS COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING.
A FAMILIAR STINK.
CHEMICALS, CHARRED FLESH AND ROT.
KLUNK
RUN!
PFSHHHH
THAT'S THE ZOLA I KNOW.
EVEN THE WORST FAMILIARITY HOLDS COMFORT.
CLOSEST TO DIMENSION Z--TO HOME--I'VE BEEN IN SO LONG.
EVERYONE OUT THE DOOR--MOVE!
GAZZT
KRESH
SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE FIGHTING ZOLA.
SAVING PEOPLE FROM HIS MACHINATIONS IS A REFLEX.
OUT THE WINDOW! GO!
KEEP TO THE ALLEYS AND DON'T LOOK BACK!

NICE. WARM FEELING.
SAVING LIVES IS A FINE REWARD.
AH, BUT THAT'S NOT THE THING, IS IT?
SOMETHING MORE THAN THE ALTRUISM--
KRAKOOOOOOMM
DESTROYING ONE OF ZOLA'S BIO FACTORIES.
MY FAVORITE THING.
TAKE IT IN.
WATCH HIS WORK BURN.
IMAGINE THE SOUR LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN HE FINDS OUT.
JUST AS SWEET AS I REMEMBER.

WH-WHO ARE YOU?
NOMAD.
LET'S GET YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.
WHO CAN I TAKE YOU TO?
THE AVENGERS? OR S.H.I.E.L.D.? ANYONE?
YOU BRAIN-NEW?
YOU HAVEN'T MADE A DAMN BIT OF SENSE SINCE I MET YOU.
WELL, TO BE FAIR, I'M NOT FROM HERE.
SORRY TO TELL YOU, MAN, BUT THERE ISN'T ANYTHING EXCEPT THE UNITED CONFEDERATION OF HYDRA.
BOSSES SERVE DOOM, RUN A TIGHT, CLEAN SHIP.
ANYONE GOES OFF THE PROGRAM, THEY GET GROUND UP AND TURNED INTO MUTATES TO FIGHT AT THE GATES.
STRENGTH THROUGH SUBMISSION AND ALL THAT SPEW.
KEEPS US SAFE FROM THE OUTLYING ZONES.
BUT ME, I LIKE TO MUDDY THINGS, PUT SOME MARKS ON THE PERFECT.

ANYWAY, THE NAME'S CHRIS.
AND SINCE I'M SUCH A KEEN GUY, I'M GONNA SETTLE THINGS BETWEEN US.
I'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS IN THE UNDERGROUND.
THEY CAN TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR HEAD, MAYBE FIX--
SCHLUNK
MIND ON YOUR OWN HEAD, VERMIN.

KLUNG
RAISING YOUR HAND AGAINST THE GUARDIANS IS CRUEL AND UNFORGIVABLE.
THE REST OF THE REFUSE IS ACCOUNTED FOR AND ORDER WILL BE MAINTAINED.
YOU SON OF A B--
YOU...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT FATHER IS UP TO HERE, BUT I'M GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF--
KRAK
HE WAS JUST A KID!
KLUNGG!

HE WAS ALSO NOT AN ABLE-BODIED MEMBER OF SOCIETY.
TWOK
SOMETHING IN HIS VOICE.
FAMILIAR-- WRONG.
THAT SHIELD...
ANOTHER OF ZOLA'S ABOMINATIONS.
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU.
GHRAHHA--!
KLUNNNNG
ENOUGH!

A DAY COMES WHEN WE MUST CHOOSE WHO WE BECOME.
I DON'T KNOW WHY FATHER MADE YOU OR WHAT YOU ARE UP TO--
--BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE LEOPOLD ZOLA.
THIS IS THE MAN I WAS MEANT TO BECOME.
-ROL
TO BE CONTINUED...